

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /070 W

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R 231243Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANTFLT

S E C R E T ANKARA 9355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, TU

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO TURKISH PORTS

REF STATE 294701 DTG 132223Z DEC 75

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF PORT
VISITS BY NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS (NPW) WITH GOT
SINCE EARLY 1974. AT THAT TIME AT THE INSISTENCE OF
GOT, THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WAS INCLUDED IN AN IMPLI-
MENTING AGREEMENT (IA) TO THE DEFENCE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT (DCA) OF 1969: QUOTE: ARTICLE 5.D.(11)
VISITS BY US NAVY COMBATANT AND AUXILIARY VESSELS POWERED
BY NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY IN EACH CASE. REQUESTS FOR
SUCH VISITS WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH AT LEAST AS MUCH AD-
VANCE NOTICE AS MAY BE STIPULATED IN THE TURKISH REGU-
LATIONS AND WILL BE PROCESSED ACCORDINGLY . END QUOTE.

2. THE IA WAS NEVER SIGNED, AND GOT SUBSEQUENTLY,
AS RESULT OF SUSPENSION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE,

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ABROGATED DCA. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT TURKISH

NAVY SUPPORTS NPW VISITS TO TURKISH PORTS, AND THERE ARE PRECEDENTS FOR SUCH VISITS MADE IN EARLY 1960'S. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) MAY NOW HAVE VETO OVER ALL PORT VISITS IF IT DETERMINES VISITS TO BE POLITICALLY INOPPORTUNE. IN ANY CASE, WE SUSPECT THAT ANY DECISION ON NPW PORT VISITS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN GOT.

3. GIVEN US NAVY NEED FOR MEDITERRANEAN PORTS FOR NPW VISITS, REPORTED TURKISH NAVY SUPPORT, AND 1960'S PRECEDENTS, WE BELIEVE POSSIBILITIES FOR NPW VISITS IN 1976 SHOULD BE EXPLORED. A DIRECT APPROACH TO MFA ON VISITS NOW WHEN WE ARE IN THROES OF NEGOTIATING OUR FUTURE MILITARY PRESENCE HERE WOULD PROBABLY BE UNWISE. WE BELIEVE BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR LOW KEY NAVY-TO-NAVY APPROACH, ENLISTING TURKISH NAVY'S POSITIVE SUPPORT TO WIN SUPPORT OF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF.

4. WE NOTE THAT ADMIRAL FIRST, COMMANDER TURKISH NAVY, MAY BE VISITING ADMIRAL BAGLEY IN LONDON IN FEBRUARY 1976. FIRAT VISIT MIGHT PROVIDE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR SURFACING POSSIBILITIES FOR NPW PORT VISITS. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT CNO AUTHORIZE ADMIRAL BAGLEY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH FIRAT IN LOW-KEY MANNER, STRESSING VALUE OF SUCH VISITS FOR NATO SECURITY, ENLISTING FIRAT'S ASSISTANCE IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR VISITS WITHIN GOT, BUT WITHOUT PUTTING HIM ON SPOT FOR COMING UP WITH A DEFINITIVE ANSWER. BASED ON FEEDBACK FROM FIRAT THROUGH NAVY CHANNELS AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF HOW BASE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING AND OF OVERALL STATUS OF US-TURKISH RELATIONS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE POLITICAL APPROACH AT MOST APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF GOT FOR NPW VISIT IN LATE 1976.

MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, PORT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA09355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750445-0932
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751217/aaaaaoohl.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 294701
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPW VISITS TO TURKISH PORTS
TAGS: MNUC, MARR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006